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PRESIDENT  
**RAKIM BROOKS**

CHAIR  
**PAULETTE MEYER**

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing more than 150 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to express our strong support for Judge Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon's nomination to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Judge Valenzuela is an enormously well-qualified nominee, whose impressive resume and background in legal ethics make her perfectly suited for a seat on the Central District.

A graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, Judge Valenzuela is a nationally recognized civil rights and legal ethics expert. In fact, she spent most of her nearly 30-year legal career in those fields. After graduating from law school, Judge Valenzuela joined the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Los Angeles. Three successful years later, she left for the U.S. Department of Justice's prestigious Civil Rights division, where she litigated Voting Rights Act cases on behalf of the U.S. government. Subsequently, she served as Assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California – the court to which she is now nominated.

After 11 years working for the federal government, Valenzuela joined the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund ("MALDEF") as Head of National Litigation. MALDEF is the nation's preeminent Latinx legal advocacy organization, representing the 62.5 million Latinx individuals who live in the United States.

In 2011, Judge Valenzuela transitioned from civil rights to legal ethics, serving as the Criminal Justice Act Supervising Attorney for the Central District of California, further demonstrating her commitment to the Central District. As supervising attorney, Judge Valenzuela oversaw the attorneys appointed to represent indigent clients before the Central District. Her success in this role led to her 2016 appointment to serve as a judge on the California State Bar Court in Los Angeles. The state bar court hears attorney misconduct cases and ensures that California lawyers act in accordance with their ethical obligations. In an era characterized by plummeting public confidence in our nation's courts, we are thrilled to see a judge with Valenzuela's commitment to legal ethics nominated to the bench. We trust our judges to abide by the highest of ethical standards, and Judge Valenzuela can be trusted to do just that.

Not only would Judge Valenzuela bring important professional diversity to the bench, but she would also bring important demographic diversity. As of 2023, no Latinx judge had ever served on over half of this nation's district courts. That is profoundly concerning, given that Latinx individuals make up approximately 19% of the U.S. population. Judge Valenzuela's nomination goes a long way to ensuring that this nation's courts reflect the diversity of the American people.

In conclusion, we urge the Senate to work quickly to secure Judge Valenzuela's confirmation to the Central District. She is an eminently qualified nominee whose extensive legal and judicial experience would be a boon to our federal courts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rakim H.D. Brooks".

Rakim Brooks  
President, Alliance for Justice